REMARKS

The Office Action requires restriction under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372 to one of Groups I-XXIV.

I. Claims 1-31 and 145-147, drawn to a method for synthesizing a nucleic acid copy of at least one RNA target, classified in class 435, subclass 91.21.

II. Claims 32-61 and 145-147, drawn to a method for synthesizing a nucleic acid copy of at least one RNA target with applying at least one ribonucleotide analogue lacking a 3′ OR group and modifying the RNA by adding the ribonucleotide analogue to the 3′ end of the RNA target, classified in class 435, subclass 91.21.

III. Claims 62-119 and 145-147, drawn to a method for synthesizing a nucleic acid copy of at least one RNA target with applying at least one non-inherent UDT comprising nucleotide analogue lacking a 3′ OR group at the 3′ terminus and modifying the RNA by the addition of the UDT to the 3′ end of the RNA, classified in class 435, subclass 91.21.

IV. Claims 120-147, drawn to a method for synthesizing a nucleic acid copy of at least one RNA target with at least one normal ribonucleotide and at least one ribonucleotide terminator and modifying the RNA by adding the ribonucleotide and the ribonucleotide terminator to the 3′ end of the RNA, classified in class 435, subclass 91.21.

V. Claims 148-161, drawn to a method for synthesizing a copy of at least one DNA target with modifying the DNA target by adding at least one ribonucleotide to the DNA target and treating the modified DNA target to render the 3′ end of the modified DNA target unextentable, classified in class 435, subclass 91.2.

VI. Claims 162-177, drawn to a composition of matter comprising a chimeric primer

or chimeric nucleic acid construct comprising at least one deoxyribonucleotide and ribonucleotide at the 3′ terminus, classified in class 536, subclass 24.3.

VII. Claims 178-210, drawn to a composition of matter comprising a primer or nucleic acid construct wherein the primer or the nucleic acid construct comprises a set of permutational primers with a homopolymeric nucleotide sequence or promoter sequences and a substitute at 2′ position of ribonucleotide, and a solid matrix, classified in class 536, subclass 24.3.

VIII. Claims 211-250, drawn to a method for synthesizing at least one copy of a library of nucleic acid target, classified in class 435, subclass 91.2.

IX. Claims 251-287 **and 625**, drawn to a method for synthesizing at least one copy of a library of nucleic acid target with adding a non-inherent UDT to an extended primers or an extended nucleic acid construct, classified in class 435, subclass 91.2.

X. Claims 288-311, drawn to a method for synthesizing at least one copy of a library of nucleic acid target with a chimeric nucleic acid primer or chimeric nucleic acid construct comprising at least one deoxyribonucleotide and at least one ribonucleotide at the 3′ terminus of the chimeric primer or the construct, classified in class 435, subclass 91.2.

XI. Claims 312-339, drawn to a method for synthesizing at least one copy of nucleic acid target with template dependent reagents and template independent reagent, classified in class 435, subclass 91.2.

XII. Claims 340-373, drawn to a method for synthesizing at least one copy of nucleic acid target with template dependent reagents and template independent reagent and at least one chimeric primer or chimeric construct comprising complementary sequence to a homopolymeric sequence in the nucleic acid

target, classified in class 435, subclass 91.2.

XIII. Claims 374-409, drawn to a method for synthesizing at least one copy of nucleic acid target with template dependent reagents and template independent reagent and at least one chimeric primer or chimeric construct comprising at least one deoxyribonucleotide and at least other nucleotide at 3' terminus of the primer or construct, classified in class 435, subclass 91.2.

XIII. Claims 410-453, drawn to a method for synthesizing at least one copy of nucleic acid target with a set of permutational primers or nucleic acid construct, classified in class 435, subclass 91.2.

XV. Claims 454-505, drawn to a method for synthesizing multiple copy of at least one nucleic acid with one forward primer or forward nucleic acid construct comprising at least one nucleotide at the 3' end of the primer or nucleic acid construct that inhibits or eliminates extension by a template independent polymerase and is a substrate for extension by a template dependent polymerase, classified in class 435, subclass 91.2.

XVI. Claims 506-517 and 626, drawn to a method of synthesizing a double-stranded DNA copy from at least one RNA target in which a non-inherent UDT is added to the 3' end of the first cDNA copy, classified in class 435, subclass 91.52.

XVII. Claims 518-537, drawn to a method for the amplification of a library of nucleic acids applying at least one first primer comprising a first UDT and at least one a second primer comprising a second UDT, classified in class 435, subclass 91.2.

XVIII. Claims 538-549, drawn to a composition of matter comprising a set of nucleic acid constructs, classified in class 536, subclass 24.3.

XIX. Claims 550-563, drawn to a method for adding nucleic acid sequences to a collection of target nucleic acids, classified in class 435, subclass 91.52.

XX. Claims 564-577, drawn to a method for adding nucleic acid sequences to a collection of target nucleic acids in which the collection of the target is divided into two portions and the set of nucleic acid constructs is divided into a first subset and second subset, the first portion of the target is ligated to the first subset of the nucleic acid construct and the second portion of the target is ligated to the second set of the nucleic acid construct, classified in class 435, subclass 91.51.

XXI. Claims 578-591, drawn to a method for adding nucleic acid sequences to a collection of target nucleic acids in which the collection of the target is ligated to a first subset of construct to form a first group and then the first group is ligated to a second subset of construct to form the collection of target nucleic acid with added nucleic acid sequence, classified in class 435, subclass 91.2.

XXII. Claims 592-602, drawn to a method for adding nucleic acid sequences to a collection of target nucleic acids in which a second set of nucleic acid construct is involved, classified in class 435, subclass 91.52.

XXIII. Claims 603-613, drawn to a method for adding nucleic acid sequences to a collection of target nucleic acids in which a first set of nucleic acid construct which is divided into a first subset and a second subset and a second set of nucleic acid construct which is divided into a third subset and a forth subset are used, the collection target nucleic acid is divided into two portions, the first portion is ligated to the first subset to the 3′ end and the third subset is ligated to the 5′ ends of the nucleic acid target to form a first group, classified in class 435,

subclass 91.51.

XXIV. Claims 614-624, drawn to a method for adding nucleic acid sequences to a collection of target nucleic acids with a first set of nucleic acid construct divided into a first subset of nucleic acid construct, and a second subset of nucleic acid construct and a second set of nucleic acid construct divided into a third subset of nucleic acid construct and a forth subset of nucleic acid construct in which the collection of target nucleic acid is ligated to the first subset to the 3′ ends and the third subset is ligated to the 5′ end of the nucleic acid target, and then the second subset is ligated to the 3′ end and the forth subset is ligated to the 5′ end of the target nucleic acid targets to form a collection of nucleic acid with nucleic acid added to the 3′ and 5′ ends, classified in class 435, subclass 91.51.

A. Response to Restriction Requirement

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Restriction Requirement and respectfully suggest reformulating the restriction requirement as follows:

Group A Inventions I, II, III, IV and V (Claims 1-161);

Group B Inventions VI and VII (Claims 162-210);

Group C Inventions VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV, XV and XVI (Claims 211-517);

Group D Invention XVII (Claims 518-537);

Group E Inventions XVIII Claims 538-549); and

Group F Inventions XIX, XX, XXI, XXII, XXIII and XXIV (Claims 550-624).

Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of particular groups of inventions in view of the following remarks.

1. The claims of Group A share a single inventive concept

The Office Action has restricted Inventions I-V (Group A) on the basis that the inventions are not disclosed as capable of use together. Specifically, the Office Action

alleges that Group I does not require any of the steps of Groups II-V. The set of claims set forth as Group A above, however, describes the common feature of treating an RNA molecule such that it can be used as a template, but unable to be used as a primer (*i.e.*, its 3′ end is unextendable). The claims of Invention I (claims 1-31 and 145-147) basically describes modifying the ends of the 3′ end of an RNA target; in claim 1 it was described as non-functional and in claim 2 it was described as having the 3′ hydroxyl removed or blocked. The modified RNA target is then used as template for a primer binding/extension reaction. In Claim 6, which ultimately depends upon 1 and 2, modification was carried out by Poly A polymerase or T4 DNA ligase. In claim 7, a ligated moiety lacks an extendable 3′ OH group.

Similarly, Invention II (claims 32-61 and 145-147) describes modifying the 3′ end of the RNA target by the addition of a ribonucleotide lacking a 3′ OH group. The modified RNA target is then used as a template for a primer binding/extension reaction. In essence, claim 32 describes a way of carrying out the process of claim 2 (Invention I) where the particular method used to carry out step iv(b) of claim 2 is specified as the addition of a ribonucleotide with a blocked 3′ group, *i.e.*, carrying out claim 6 of invention I.

Similar to both Invention I and II, Invention III (claims 62-119) describes modifying the 3′ end of the RNA target by the addition of an oligonucleotide lacking a 3′ OH group at its terminus. The modified RNA target is then used as a template for a primer binding/extension reaction. In essence, claim 62 describes a way of carrying out the process of claim 2 (Invention I) where the particular method used to carry out step iv(b) of claim 2 is specifically recited an addition of an oligonucleotide with a blocked 3′ group, i.e carrying out claim 7 of invention I.

Furthermore, claim 87 of Invention III describes modifying the 3′ end of the RNA target by the addition of a UDT followed by modifying the 3′ end of the UDT. The modified RNA target is then used as a template for a primer binding/extension reaction. In essence, claim 87 describes a way of carrying out the process of claim 2 (Invention I) where the method used to carry out step iv(b) of claim 2 is specified to be the addition of a UDT which is then further modified. This step could be carried out by a number of different ways. The addition of a UDT can be carried out by the addition of rATP with

Poly A polymerase (claim 89) and blocked by the addition of cordycepin or a 3'aminoribonucleotide (claim 91). These claims, which ultimately depend upon claim 87 are similar to claim 6 of Invention I. The addition of a UDT could also be carried out by the addition of an oligonucleotide through ligation (claim 93) and blockage by the addition of a deoxyribonucleotide analogue with Terminal Deoxynucleotidyl Transferase (claim 96) or a ribonucleotide analogue with Poly A Polymerase (claim 98).

Similar to Inventions I-III, Invention IV (claims 120-147) describes the method of claim 32 (Invention II) where the ribonucleotide lacking a 3' OH group is part of a mixture with extendable ribonucleotides. The modified RNA target is then used as a template for a primer binding/extension reaction. This claim could be considered to be carrying out the method of claims 6 (Invention I) and 32 (Invention II). This method could also be considered to be carrying out the method of claim 62 (Invention III) since the mixture will form an oligonucleotide with a blocked 3' end. This method could also be considered to be carrying out the method of claims 89 and 91 of Invention III since it will form a UDT out of the extendable nucleotides whose end will be defined and modified by the addition of a nucleotide analogue lacking a 3' hydroxyl group.

Invention V (claims 148-161) may also be a part of Group A since step (a) of claim 148 is "providing (i) at least one DNA target". As such, the DNA products of Inventions I, II, III and IV could be used as DNA targets for the process of claim 148. This claim further embraces the concept of Inventions I, II, III and IV where the DNA product could then be used as a template but according to the method of claim 148, it could not be used as a primer.

In short, Group A (Inventions I, II, III, IV, and V) describes a collection of claims that are capable of use with each other, and they may have the same or similar designs, modes of operation and effects.

2. The claims of Group B share a single inventive concept

The Office Action has restricted Inventions VI and VII (Group B) on the basis that the composition recited in the claims of Inventions VI and VII have different components. The claims of Invention VI (claims 162-177) and Invention VII (claims 178-210) commonly relate to a composition that comprises a chimeric oligonucleotide that

has other than a deoxyribonucleotide at the 3′ end. For instance, in claim 162 the 3′ moiety is stipulated to be a ribonucleotide and in claim 171 this moiety may be either a ribonucleotide or a nucleotide analogue and has an additional element that it is attached to a matrix. Further, claim 169, which is dependent on claim 162, has an element of attachment to a matrix. Claim 178 (Invention VII) is similar to claim 171 (Invention VI), except that claim 178 recites a particular sequence of the primer or nucleic acid construct -- that is, a nucleic acid consisting of a homopolymeric segment, the penultimate nucleotide being a permutational mixture of any of the other three nucleotides besides the one forming the homopolymeric segment and the terminal nucleotide comprising a permutational mixture of all four bases. Claim 178 also has an additional element compared to claim 171 with respect to the particular 3′ nucleotide that recites a nucleotide analogue with a substitution in the 2′ position. Thus, claim 178 (Invention VII) would be encompassed by the broader claim 171 (Invention VI). Claim 180 of Invention VII is also similar to claim 171 but has the element of a homopolymeric sequence and the terminal nucleotide being an analogue with 2′ substitution. It lacks the element of attachment to a matrix, but claim 189, which is dependent on claim 180, has this element.

Thus, in view of the above, applicants respectfully request that the claims of Inventions VI and VII be grouped together as a single invention (Group B).

3. The claims of Group C share a single inventive concept

The rationale for restricting between Inventions VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV, XV and XVI (Group C) is not clear from the Office Action. The Office Action did not elucidate reasons and examples as required by MPEP 803 to support restriction between inventions linked by a single general inventive concept. That is, the restriction requirement between Groups VIII -XVI fails to adequately describe how each group is separate and distinct from all other groups. The Action merely alleges that some of the inventions are distinct. This is insufficient. To satisfy the PTO's burden, the Action must establish that: (i) Group VIII is separate and distinct from each one of Groups IX, X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV, XV and XVI; (ii) that Group IX is separate and distinct from Groups VIII, X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV, XV and XVI; (iii) that Group X is separate and distinct from

Group VIII, IX, XI, XII, XIII, XIV, XV and XVI; and so on. The Action fails to set forth in any detail how the invention of Group VIII is separate and distinct from, say Group IX or Group X. Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement on these grounds, and in the event the requirement is repeated, respectfully request that the Action specifically delineate how and why each group is separate and distinct from every other group (not groups of groups).

While attempting to elucidate the reasons and examples, as required by MPEP 803, to support restriction between inventions VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV, XV and XVI, it should become apparent to the examiner that the claims of the claims of Group C are linked by a single general inventive concept. To this end, claim 625 has been added to recite a method that would encompass the methods recited by the claims of inventions VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV, XV and XVI. Claim 625 demonstrates that the claims of VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV, XV and XVI share a like set of minimum requirements with respect to the nature of the primer or nucleic acid constructs to be used (*e.g.*, a primer comprising in the 3′ region a nucleotide analogue with a 2′ modification or ribonucleotide) and the nature of steps recited.

Additionally, Applicants offer the following guidance as to the similarities between the claims of Group C in order to establish that the claims are indeed linked by a single general inventive concept. With regard to Invention VIII (claims 211-250), claim 211 recites a method that depends upon the use of the composition of claim 180 (Invention VII), where it is provided in step a) (ii) of claim 211. Claim 245, which is dependent upon claim 211, has the composition of claim 180 attached to a matrix, which, as described above, describes the composition of claim 178.

Similarly, in Invention IX (claims 251-287), claim 251 recites a method that depends upon the use of the composition of claim 180 (Invention VII) where it is provided in step a) (ii) of claim 211. Claim 251 differs from claim 211 by having an extra step where after extension of the composition of claim 180, a non-inherent UDT is added to it. Furthermore, claim 224, which is dependent on claim 211, has the element that an extra step is carried out where a UDT is added after extension of the composition of claim 180.

With regard to Invention X (claims 288-311), claim 288 recites a method that depends upon the use of the composition of claim 162 (Invention VI), where it is provided in step a) (ii) of claim 288. With regard to Invention XI (claims 312-339), in the method of claim 312, the composition that is used has the element that the 3′ end comprises other than a deoxyribonucleotide. As such it would encompass the use of the composition of claim 162 (where the 3′ end comprises a ribonucleotide) and the composition of claim 180 (where the 3′ end comprises a nucleotide analogue with a substitution in the 2′ position).

With regard to Invention XII (claims 340-373), in the method of claim 340, the composition is similar to that of claim 312 (Invention XI) with an additional element that the primer or nucleic acid construct is complementary to a homopolymeric sequence.

With regard to invention XIII (claims 374-409), in the method of claim 374, the composition that is used has the element that the 3′ end comprises other than a deoxyribonucleotide, *i.e.*, its practically the same language as claim XI and as such, it would encompass the use of the composition of claim 162 (where the 3′ end comprises a ribonucleotide) and the composition of claim 180 (where the 3′ end comprises a nucleotide analogue with a substitution in the 2′ position). With regard to invention XIII, in the method of claim 408, the composition is the same as in claim 374 and an additional step is added where a UDT is added after making a copy. In the method of claim 409, the composition is the same as in claim 374 and two additional steps are added: a) addition of a UDT after making a copy; and b) rendering the copy single-stranded.

With regard to Invention XIV (claims 410-453), the method of claim 410 depends upon the use of the composition of claim 191 (Invention VII), where it is provided in step a) (ii) of claim 410. The method of claim 421 also depends upon the use of a composition similar to that of claim 191 (Invention VII), where it is provided in step a) (ii) of claim 421. The composition in this claim differs from the composition of Claim 191 in that instead of requiring that "H" be a single nucleotide as in claim 191, the composition of claim 421 allows "H" to be a single nucleotide or a nucleotide analogue. Similarly, the method of claim 431 depends upon the use of the composition of claim 202 (Invention VII) where it is provided in step a) (ii) of claim 431. The composition of claim 202 is the

same as the composition of claim 191 except that the primers or nucleic acid constructs also comprise a promoter sequence "Pro". The method of claim 443 depends upon the use of a composition similar to that of claim 202 (Invention VII), where it is provided in step a) (ii) of claim 443. The composition in this claim differs from the composition of claim 202 in that instead of requiring that "H" be a single nucleotide as in claim 202, the composition of claim 443 allows "H" to be a single nucleotide or a nucleotide analogue.

With regard to Invention XV (claims 454-505), the method of claim 454 depends upon the use of a nucleic acid primer or nucleic acid construct that has a nucleotide on the 3' end that inhibits or eliminates extension by a template independent polymerase. In claim 457, which depends upon claim 454, this nucleotide is recited as being a ribonucleotide or a nucleotide analogue with a 2' modification, thereby using a primer or nucleic acid construct that is equivalent to the composition of claim 164 (Invention VI). The method of claim 479 depends upon the use of a forward primer or a forward nucleic acid construct that has a nucleotide on the 3' end that inhibits or eliminates extension by a template independent polymerase. In claim 482, which depends upon claim 479, this nucleotide is recited as being a ribonucleotide or a nucleotide analogue with a 2' modification thereby using a primer or nucleic acid construct that is equivalent to the composition of claim 162 (Invention VI).

With regard to Invention XVI (claims 506-517), the method of claim 506 depends upon the use of a forward primer or a forward nucleic acid construct that has a nucleotide on the 3' end that inhibits or eliminates extension by a template independent polymerase. This is the same element on the nature of the primer or nucleic acid construct that is in claims 454 and 479.

Applicants therefore believe that the inventions VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV, XV and XVI (Group C) are linked by a single general inventive concept. Accordingly, Applicants believe that the restriction requirement is improper and request that the claims of Group C be examined for patentability in a single application.

Finally, restriction between inventions is only proper when a search burden exists for the examiner to search all of the inventions claimed. If the search and examination of a set of claims can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct

inventions (see MPEP §803.01). In the instant case, all of the claims of Group C are drawn to methods of synthesizing a copy of at least one nucleic acid using a primer that comprises a at least one substituted deoxyribonucleotide in the 3' terminal end. Therefore, contrary to the position of the examiner, all the inventions VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV, XV and XVI (Group C) are related and share a single inventive concept. In addition, inventions VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV, and XV are in classified in the same class and subclass (435/91.2) and invention XVI in (435/91.52). Therefore it is evident from overlapping method steps, overlapping class and subclass, and overlapping preambles, and overlapping primer constructs that a search of the subject matter of inventions VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV, XV and XVI (Group C) does not constitute a serious search burden for the examiner. Applicants particularly and respectfully request that the claims of inventions VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV, XV and XVI, or Group C, be prosecuted in the same patent application.

4. The claims of Group F share a single inventive concept

The Office Action has restricted inventions XIX, XX, XXI, XXII, XXIII and XXIV (Group F) on the basis that the composition recited in the claims of Inventions IV and VII have different components.

With regard to Invention XIX (claims 550-563), the method of claim 550 depends upon the use in step (a) (ii) of either A) the composition of claim 538, B) the composition of claim 539, C) the composition of claim 544, or D) the composition of claim 545, all of which compositions are part of Invention XVIII. Similarly, Invention XX (claims 564-577), the method of claim 564 depends upon the use in step (a) (ii) of either A) the composition of claim 538, B) the composition of claim 539, C) the composition of claim 544, or D) the composition of Claim 545, all of which compositions are part of Invention XVIII. In carrying out the method for claim 564, it differs from the method of claim 550 in dividing the sets that make up compositions A, B, C or D into two subsets prior to ligation and the target nucleic acids are ligated as a single pool sequentially with each subset.

With regard to Invention XXI (claims 578-591), the method of claim 578 also depends upon the use in step (a) (ii) of either A) the composition of Claim 538, B) the

composition of claim 539, C) the composition of claim 544, or D) the composition of Claim 545, all of which compositions are part of Invention XVIII. In carrying out the method for claim 564, it differs from the method of claim 550 in dividing the sets that make up compositions A, B, C or D into two subsets prior to ligation and the target nucleic acids are divided into two pools that are ligated to one subset or the other.

With regard to Invention XXII (claims 592-602), the method of claim 592 depends upon the use in step (a) (ii) of a first set with 3′ single stranded tails that are either A) the composition of claim 538, B) the composition of claim 539, C) the composition of claim 544, or D) the composition of claim 545, all of which compositions are part of Invention XVII I, and the use in step (a) (iii) of a second set with 5′ single stranded tails that are either A) the composition of claim 538, B) the composition of claim 539, C) the composition of claim 544, or D) the composition of claim 545, all of which compositions are part of Invention XVIII and carrying out the ligations of 5′ tails and 3′ tails to a single pool of targets simultaneously.

With regard to invention XXIII (claims 603-613), the method of claim 603 depends upon the use in step (a) (ii) of first set with 3′ single stranded tails that are either A) the composition of claim 538, B) the composition of claim 539, C) the composition of claim 544, or D) the composition of claim 545, all of which compositions are part of Invention XVIII, and the use in step (a) (iii) as a second set with 5′ single stranded tails that are either A) the composition of claim 538, B) the composition of claim 539, C) the composition of claim 544, or D) the composition of claim 545, all of which compositions are part of Invention XVIII and the targets are divided into two pools, the first and second sets are divided into two subsets each and ligation is carried out sequentially such that each pool is in a ligation reaction with each subset of each set.

With regard to invention XXIV (claims 614-624), the method of claim 610 depends upon the use in step (a) (ii) of a first set with 3′ single stranded tails that are either A) the composition of claim 538, B) the composition of claim 539, C) the composition of claim 544, or D) the composition of claim 545, all of which compositions are part of Invention XVIII, and the use in step (a) (iii) as a second set with 5′ single stranded tails that are either A) the composition of Claim 538, B) the composition of claim 539, C) the composition of claim 544, or D) the composition of claim 545, all of

which compositions are part of Invention XVIII and the targets are divided into two pools, the first and second sets are divided into two subsets each and ligation is carried out sequentially such that a pool is ligated to only one subset from each set.

Thus, in view of the foregoing, Applicants therefore believe that the inventions XVIX, XX, XXI, XXII, XXIII and XXIV (Group F) because each of the invention in Group F uses one of the compositions of Invention XVIII and recites the same or similar minimum set of methods steps.

B. Election

Applicants respectfully requests that the Restriction Requirement be withdrawn and reformulated as provided above. Applicants particularly request that the claims of Inventions VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV, XV and XVI, or Group C, be prosecuted in the same patent application in view of the above remarks. If applicant's request is granted, Applicants hereby provisionally elect Group C. In the event that the requirement is made final and in order to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.143, Applicants hereby provisionally elect Group IX (claims 251-287 and 625), which covers claims 251-287 and 625, **with traverse**. Applicants reserve the right to file divisional application(s) directed to non-elected subject matter and reserve the right to petition the restriction requirement.

CONCLUSION

Applicants maintain that the restriction requirement is improper and request examination of the claims of inventions VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, XIII, XIV, XV and XVI, or Group C. If the Examiner believes that the prosecution might be advanced by discussing the application with Applicants' representatives, in person or over the telephone, we would welcome the opportunity to do so.

It is believed that no additional fees are required with this submission. However, in the event that additional fees are deemed necessary, or in the event of any variance between the amount enclosed and the fees determined by the USPTO, please charge or credit any such variance to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0206.

Respectfully submitted,

HUNTON & WILLIAMS LLP

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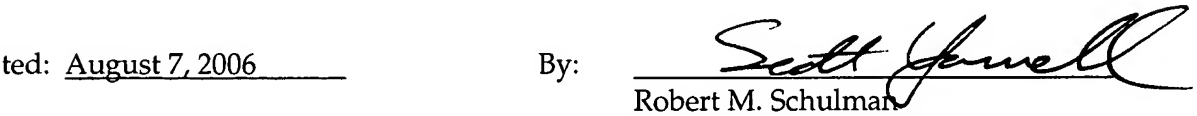
By: 

Robert M. Schulman
Registration No. 31,196

Scott Yarnell
Registration No. 45,245

HUNTON & WILLIAMS LLP
Intellectual Property Department
1900 K Street, N.W., Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20006-1109
(202) 955-1500 (telephone)
(202) 778-2201 (facsimile)